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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DEANDRE WHITEHEAD INDICTED FOR
SOLICITATION TO COMMIT WITNESS TAMPERING**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that a federal grand jury has indicted Deandre Whitehead, age 20, of Baltimore, Maryland, for crimes committed in connection with the solicitation to commit the murder of two state witnesses.

The two-count indictment charges Whitehead with solicitation to commit witness tampering against two state witnesses. Whitehead was indicted in August of 2003 by the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, charging him with the August 10, 2003 murder of Russell Peterson in the 800 block of Carroll Street in Baltimore, Maryland. The federal indictment alleges that while awaiting trial for the murder, Whitehead solicited another to attempt to murder two witnesses to the crime. A city jury subsequently acquitted Whitehead of Peterson's murder.

The maximum penalty for the solicitation charge is 10 years imprisonment.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Baltimore City Police Department, the Maryland State Police, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney's Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Debra L. Dwyer and Christine Manuelian.